

**State Board of Education  
Briefing Paper  
Homeschool Testing**

**Issue/Definition:** State law requires homeschooled students to be tested annually using one of two assessment options. One option involves the State Board of Education. See RCW cite below. The manner in which the State Board has implemented its authority was adopted in rule at WAC 180-52-070 (attached). In short, as long as a standardized test has been evaluated (not approved) by the Buros Institute of Mental Measurement, the parents can use that test if they are exercising the State Board annual testing option.

**RCW Cite:** RCW 28A.200.010(1)(c):

(1) *Each parent whose child is receiving home-based instruction under RCW 28A.225.010 (4) shall have the duty to:*

(c) *Ensure that a standardized achievement test approved by the state board of education is administered annually to the child by a qualified individual or that an annual assessment of the student's academic progress is written by a certificated person who is currently working in the field of education. . . ."*

**Expiration of SBE Authority:** Authority is ongoing. Unaffected by E2SHB 3098.

**OSPI Role:** N/A.

**State Board Role:** When an inquiry comes to the office whether a particular test has been "approved" by the State Board, SBE staff reviews the list of tests that have been evaluated by the Buros Institute of Mental Measurements. The list is republished every two years.

**Effect on Districts:** N/A. Districts become involved when a homeschool student enrolls in the district and their academic record, including test results, are evaluated by the district for placement purposes.

**Recommendation from SBE Staff:** Retain the current process.

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**WAC 180-52-070. Approved standardized tests for use by students receiving home-based instruction — Examples — Assistance.** (1)(a) Pursuant to RCW 28A.200.010(3), the state board of education will provide a list of examples of standardized achievement tests that a parent may use to assess and determine whether their child is making reasonable academic progress.

(b) Tests on the list are approved by the state board of education on the basis that they are standardized achievement tests.

(c) Parents may use a standardized test that does not appear on the list of examples if it has been evaluated by a test evaluation organization recognized by the state board of education and cited on the state board web page.

(d) Parents may contact the state board of education office for assistance in determining if a test of their choosing that is not on the list of examples is standardized.

(2) The list of examples of standardized achievement tests shall be:

(a) Made available on the web page of the state board;

(b) Included in the following publication of the office of the superintendent of public instruction, "*Washington's State Laws Regulating Home-Based Instruction*;" and

(c) Provided on request.

(3) The list of examples of standardized achievement tests on the state board web page may not be changed without prior approval of the state board of education.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.200.010(3). 02-14-125, § 180-52-070, filed 7/2/02, effective 8/2/02.]

**NOTE:** The reference to RCW 28A.200.010(3) will need to be changed to RCW 28A.200.010(1)(c).